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Conservation Commission Minutes 05/02/2013

Arlington Conservation Commission
Minutes
May 2, 2013

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Nathaniel Stevens, Charles Tirone, Catherine Garnett, Michelle Durocher, Curt Connors, Chris Naylor, and David White of the Commission. Eileen Coleman, of the Commission, was not present. Also present was Bruce Wheltle, Mary and John McCann.

7:45 pm – Commission Business:

White/Naylor motioned to approve the 4/25 **minutes** with edits; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stevens read through the recent email from the McCanns regarding their plan to remove a large willow that had fallen from their shoreline at **30 Spy Pond Parkway** into Spy Pond. The contractor they have hired will stabilize the soil with plywood in order to access the location with a crane along the south side of the property. They also proposed to trim dead wood from few other trees, remove a dead chokecherry and a deformed mulberry. They proposed to replant with dogwood, Japanese maple and river birch. The crane is scheduled to come at the end of May. The replanting will take place over the summer. The Commission asked that they submit a planting plan by the fall; the McCanns plan to have one ready by then with assistance from a family member who is a Landscape Architect.

Mr. Stevens asked the Commission to comment on the draft tree replacement figures at the **Symmes Woods**. Clarissa Rowe has compiled some tree removal figures from 2005 and 2006, which she reported by caliper size. Mr. Tirone had additional trees from a site visit to the utility path clearing in March 2008. The Commission asked if trees could be replanted in the utility corridor. If the Commission used its tree replacement requirements in its wetlands regulations, it would require replacing as many as 3 to 5 trees for every 1 removed. The replacement trees are at most 3 inches caliper.

The Commission discussed a replanting plan to determine how much the site will support, with any excess be “banked” or donated to the Tree Committee for planting elsewhere in Town; tree replanting is desperately needed after the microburst of 2012. Mr. Naylor asked to see the Conservation Restriction.

Ms. Garnett reported on the **Hemlock St** conservation land. She noticed that erosion control fabric was in place on the slope. She did not see new plants.

Ms. Durocher reported on invasive plants and other issues at **McClellan Park**. There is dumping of yardwaste at the wetland adjacent to Wright St and Japanese Knotweed is growing in a small patch. Ms. Garnett recommended cutting and covering with multiple layers of black plastic to smother the rhizomes. The plastic should be weighted down with mulch to keep it in place for up to a year. Phragmites is growing in the stormwater detention basin's wetland and on the slope. Mr. Stevens asked Ms. Beckwith to contact the Park Dept or DPW to inquire of the possibility of posting No Dumping signs at the park.

Ms. Beckwith thought that the representatives of the **Arlington Catholic athletic field** project were due to appear in regards the Notice of Noncompliance for cutting down trees in the Buffer Zone to Mill Brook. Following Commission discussion, it was decided that the site walk for the next day should be cancelled and conducted only after a proposed landscaping plan was submitted, as had been required in the permit.

The Commission asked Ms. Beckwith to inform the McCanns that their planting plan for **30 Spy Pond Parkway** is due to be submitted by September 30, 2013, as they had left the meeting earlier.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Corinna Beckwith
Commission Administrator